

Appl. No. 09/642,352
Amdt. dated March 15, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 15, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has received the Office action dated December 15, 2004, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 28-31 and 37-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gennaro (U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,834); 2) rejected claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14, 17-20, 22 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emerick (U.S. Pat. App. No. 6,418,014 in view of Swinger (6,349,825); 3) rejected claims 3, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emerick in view of Swinger and Gennaro (U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,834); 4) rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emerick in view of Swinger and O'Connor (U.S. Pat. No. 5,812,356); 5) rejected claims 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennaro in view of Jones (U.S. Pat. No. 5,144,659); 6) rejected claims 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennaro in view of Hayman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,966); and 7) rejected claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennaro in view of Kawan (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0049785).

With this Response, Applicant has amended claims 19-38, 41-45, 48-51 and 64, canceled claims 1-18 and 52-63 and introduced new claims 65-71.

I. CLAIMS 19-27

As now recited, claims 19-27 claim a computer system that includes "a remotely located control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors" and "the plurality of locks prevent said computer components from being removed from said computer system unless authorized by the remotely located control unit." The cited Emerick and Swinger references, as well as the other cited references, taken individually or when combined fail to teach or suggest a computer as now claimed. None of the cited references teach a computer system having a remotely located control unit that is coupled to a plurality of biometric sensors and coupled to a plurality of locks that are controlled by the control unit. This allows for the remotely located control unit to determine if the person trying to remove one of the computer components from the computer system is authorized to remove that specific computer component. Given that the

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cited references fail to teach or suggest such claim limitations, it is believed that claims 19-27 are in condition for allowance.

II. CLAIMS 28-40

As now amended, claims 28-40 recite a security method for a computer system that includes a plurality of computer components each including an associated biometric sensor and a control unit coupled to the plurality of biometric sensors and "sending a signal to the control unit in order to verify the person" and "permitting use of the computer component associated with the biometric sensor used in (a) if the person is successfully verified by the control unit."

The cited Gennaro reference, and the other cited references, fail to teach or suggest a security method which includes a control unit coupled to a plurality of biometric sensor and the control unit permitting use of the computer component associated with the biometric sensor that was used to verify the authenticity of the person. Given this, claims 28-40 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

III. CLAIMS 41-51

As now amended, claims 41-51 recite a biometric access system including "a control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors, said control unit controlling logical access to the plurality of computer devices in said computer system based on a signal from one or more of said biometric sensors." Given that the cited Gennaro and the other cited references fail to teach or suggest such a control unit, it is believed that claims 41-51 are in condition for allowance.

IV. CLAIMS 64-71

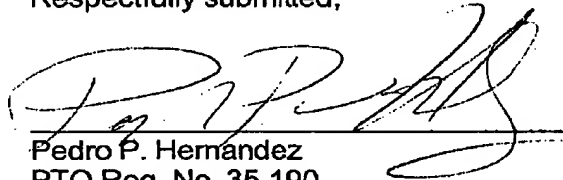
Independent claim 64 as amended now recites a security system for a computer that includes a "plurality of locks each associated with one of said plurality of biometric sensors and the plurality of locks coupled to and controlled by said control unit" and "each of said locks preventing its corresponding computer equipment from being removed from said computer system and said lock can be unlocked upon a person being authenticated by the control unit via its corresponding biometric sensor." Given that none of the cited references teach or suggest such a computer system having such a control unit, it is believed that claim 64-71 are in condition for allowance.

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In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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